

The amendment states that "The Congress and the States shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the Flag of the United States." Almost every State, 46 of the States in this country have asked us to do just that.

Let us give the States and the American people what they want and what our flag deserves.

Our Stars and Stripes stands for the principle of democracy. It represents all the hard fought battles for freedom and preservation of the American way of life. I call on my colleagues to join Representative JERRY SOLOMON, Representative SONNY MONTGOMERY, myself, and others to cosponsor this legislation in the coming weeks.

A SAD DAY FOR VETERANS

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, today is the 56th day of the imperial speakership.

Mr. Speaker, 9 months ago a majority of my colleagues recognized the debt owed our veterans, and the need to ensure they receive proper and adequate medical care. Today I must rise to inform my colleagues that the contract we have with our Nation's veterans has been labeled expendable by the Republican majority, and I am here to issue a warning to the Nation's veterans that our contract pledged to our veterans is up for renegotiation under the Republican contract on America. Last week an appropriations subcommittee slashed \$206 million from the Veterans Administration and eliminated funding for six veterans care facilities as a way to help pay for the tax cuts promised to the rich in their contract on America. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day in America when we place the desires of wealthy special interests over the needs of men and women who risked their lives to defend America.

AMERICA NEEDS THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today as we face final congressional action on passing the balanced budget amendment, it is a moment of national truth. Will we squirm and wiggle and sidestep our responsibility, will we cop out with politically palatable excuses or will we take the action because if we vote no today how much easier will it be to continue to vote for deficit spending?

Since 1969 we have not had a balanced budget. And every Democrat and Republican who has voted for this deficit spending has had a good excuse to do so. But it is time to stop this.

We need a balanced budget amendment. We can think of, and taxpayers

above all can think of 4½ trillion reasons to vote for a balanced budget amendment.

Ladies and gentlemen of America, watch today carefully. It is a critical day in the history of our Nation.

BALANCE THE BUDGET WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING CHILDREN

(Mr. HINCHEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, the majority party of the House of Representatives has declared war on our Nation's children.

The leadership has taken their campaign against working Americans to one of its lowest points yet attacking the most vulnerable in our society—millions of American children who rely on school lunches for a well balanced meal every day.

The most profound effect will be upon the ability of our children to learn. Undernutrition effects a child's behavior and performance.

In support of a 1969 expansion of school nutrition programs, President Nixon once said: "A child ill fed is dulled in curiosity, lower in stamina, distracted from learning." What has happened to the Republican Party?

In my home State of New York, more than 1,700,000 children currently participating in the school lunch program will be affected by a cut in funding.

We can do better than to try to balance the budget by jeopardizing the health and nutrition of 13 million American children who depend on the School Nutrition Program each day for a balanced meal.

THE BATTLE LINES ARE DRAWN

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the American people are clearly seeing where the battle lines are drawn. The Democrats will defend the Great Society of Lyndon Johnson and the \$4.5 trillion we have already been spending on a failed system.

Republicans are working to transform the welfare state into a work-for-benefits system.

Democrats will fight to keep the money flowing for the beltway bureaucrats here in Washington.

The Republicans will keep the money flowing back to the States like Kansas to help the American people.

The liberal Democrats have accused the Republicans of being mean-spirited because Republicans want to change the system that promotes destruction to the family, hurts children and that seriously undermines the future of our Nation.

The Republicans will work to change a system that has failed the American people completely.

The battle lines have been drawn. May the best ideas win.

SUPPORT FOR THE RISK ASSESSMENT AND COST-BENEFIT ACT

(Mr. STENHOLM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, as a long-time supporter of small business, I rise in support of H.R. 1022, the Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Act. It's simple: Risk analysis is good for small business.

Small business has had to contend with a literal blizzard of Government regulation in virtually every aspect of their operations. It is not just one or two big or major impacts from regulations, it is also death by a thousand cuts. It is the cumulative burden of paperwork, planning, and other compliance requirements that are often overlooked in the process of creating Federal regulations that are especially burdensome to smaller businesses. Mechanisms like those contained in H.R. 1022 will help to ensure that Government considers the total impact of the cumulative regulatory burden.

The small businesses impacted by many new regulations, especially in the environmental and worker safety area, do not have the resources to challenge or assess the increasingly scientific methods or exposure assumptions used by Federal agencies to justify new regulations.

Discussion and provision of regulatory options and risk scenarios early in the regulation development process will help small business by focusing resources and providing at least some assistance in an analysis process they cannot hope to shoulder on their own behalf.

In short, small business needs H.R. 1022 so that Federal agencies will be compelled to develop cost-effective regulations that will allow small businesses to both comply and remain economically viable.

THE REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA IS ALIVE AND WELL

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, wishful thinking is all there is to the statements that were made by the minority leader and the minority whip, wishful thinking based on the New York Times poll that came out this morning which had people raising some understandable concerns about the Contract With America. The reason for that is that it has not been understood appropriately.

Is there really a desire on the part of Republican Members of this House to ensure that young children are not able to gain lunches at school? Absolutely not. We believe that it can be done better.